

THE PUBLIC WORKS INQUIRY.

COST OF CLEANING BUILDINGS.

CONTRACT BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STRUCTURES—STREET SPRINKLERS AND ASSESSMENTS.

Mr. McMillan, assistant custodian of the Post Office, was the first witness examined yesterday by the Senate Committee which is investigating the Public Works Department. He testified that it cost \$1,500 a year to clean the Post office building. The men cleaners were paid \$2 a day and the women \$1. No extra payments were made to the help, as is the case in the Public Works Department.

George W. Birdsall, assistant engineer on the Croton Aqueduct, testified that water meters were placed in buildings used for business purposes at the expense of the owners. In private houses they were placed at the expense of the city. Only about twenty-five meters have been put in private houses. Meters were put in buildings used for other shops and like purposes, because such buildings had closets. The department had the right to put a meter in any place except private houses. Inspectors report what buildings require meters. About seventy-five per cent of the places reported as requiring meters had been actually "metered."

G. Livingston Morse, joint owner of the Morse building, testified that it cost \$2,320 a year to clean that building, about five cents a square foot of cleaning space—several times less than it cost to clean public buildings under the Department of Public Works. It took between 230 and 300 tons of coal a year to run two elevators and heat the building nine stories high, while it takes 283 tons of coal to run one elevator and heat the brown stone court-house which has only three stories high.

J. B. Conger, who is engaged in street sprinkling, testified that he bought from Abram Teller in 1863, a street sprinkling route for which he paid \$4,500. He held it up to 1881, when Commissioner Thompson took a portion of it from him, and gave it to Mr. Silcox, who represents George Caulfield. The witness said that he went to work early in the spring, and got up his usual list of subscribers, but when he went for his permit was told by John Chambers, the Water Register, that Commissioners Thompson had ordered that a part of the route be given to Silcox. He was told if he did not give up his list of subscribers that the remainder of his route would be taken from him, and he therefore gave up his list for that part of the route which had been taken from him. Last spring a portion of the remaining route was taken from him and given to a man named Hart, who keeps a cigar store. The witness bought it back from Hart, paying therefor \$250. The witness had paid political assessments to J. M. Early. He last paid \$100 in 1881. The money was paid in the Department of Public Works, and the witness produced receipts to prove it. He also paid an assessment to Early for Mrs. Hyde, a widow, who was in charge of a street sprinkler. After his death, the witness looked after the route. She had no money, and the witness paid her \$100. The value of the route which was given to Caulfield was worth about \$8,000 yearly. The witness said he did not pay any political assessment under Tweed's and Van Nort's administration of the Public Works.

John L. Ladd, a street sprinkler, testified that he paid \$100 a year to clean that building. The witness said that he had another route which he managed, and that he paid \$100 a year to clean that building. The witness said that he had twenty-one women and twenty-one men working for him, and that the cost of cleaning space, and the annual cost of cleaning was less than five cents a foot. There were six elevators in the building, and he paid \$1,000 a year to run them. The cost of heating was an item. The coal was bought by contract, and cost \$5 a ton. The ton of coal was purchased in lots of 2,240 pounds, and not in single pounds, as per the contract.

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